



AGREEMENT ON THE ECONOMIC NETWORK OF THE THREE SEAS REGIONS

Preamble

We, the Signatories to the Lublin Declaration on establishment of the Economic Network of the Three Seas Regions, signed in Lublin on 29 June 2021,

acting pursuant to:

- the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities, adopted in Madrid on 21 May 1980,

as well as

- having regard to the membership of the Three Seas Regions countries in the European Union,
- being driven by the principle of mutuality and taking into account the interests and systemic differences of the countries,
- sharing the conviction that it is right to strive for the development of co-operation consisting in the exchange of experiences and implementation of joint projects

hereby decide to formally establish the Economic Network of the Three Seas Regions, with its seat in Lublin (operating also under the following abbreviated name: the Network of the Three Seas Regions), hereinafter also referred to as the “Network”.

§ 1

Name and seat

1. The name in Polish shall be: Sieć Gospodarcza Regionów Trójmorza, and the name in English: Economic Network of the Three Seas Regions. The abbreviated name in Polish shall be: Sieć Regionów Trójmorza, and the abbreviated name in English: Network of the Three Seas Regions.

2. The seat of the Network shall be Lublin (Republic of Poland).

§ 2

Members of the Network

1. The Founding Members of the Network include:
 - 1) Lubelskie Voivodeship (Republic of Poland) with its seat in Lublin;
 - 2) Mazowieckie Voivodeship (Republic of Poland) with its seat in Warsaw;
 - 3) Podkarpackie Voivodeship (Republic of Poland) with its seat in Rzeszów;
 - 4) Podlaskie Voivodeship (Republic of Poland) with its seat in Białystok;
 - 5) Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship (Republic of Poland) with its seat in Kielce;
 - 6) Alytus Region Development Council (Republic of Lithuania) with its seat in Alytus;
 - 7) Marijampole Region Development Council (Republic of Lithuania) with its seat in Marijampole;
 - 8) Panevėžys Regional Development Council (Republic of Lithuania) with its seat in Panevėžys;
 - 9) Calarasi County (Romania) with its seat in Calarasi;
 - 10) Caraş-Severin County (Romania) with its seat in Reşiţa;
 - 11) Dolj County (Romania) with its seat in Craiova;
 - 12) Maramureş County (Romania) with its seat in Baia Mare;
 - 13) Timiş County (Romania) with its seat in Timișoara;
 - 14) Prešov Self-Governing Region (the Slovak Republic) with its seat in Prešov;
 - 15) Hajdú-Bihar County (Hungary) with its seat in Debrecen.
2. Members of the Network may also become other entities listed in this Agreement and the Network Charter, as well as entities listed in the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities and in the regulations on the Three Seas Initiative Countries.
3. Decisions on admitting new members shall be taken subject to obtaining written consent from more than half of the Regular Members of the Network.

§ 3

Territorial range

The territory within which the Network shall conduct its activities covers:

1. in the Republic of Poland: Lubelskie Voivodeship, Podkarpackie Voivodeship, Podlaskie Voivodeship, Mazowieckie Voivodeship and Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship,
2. in the Republic of Lithuania: Alytus, Marijampole and Panevėžys Regions,
3. in Romania: Calarasi, Caraş-Severin, Dolj, Maramureş and Timiş Counties,

4. in the Slovak Republic: Prešov Self-Governing Region,
5. in Hungary: Hajdú-Bihar County,
6. and areas of other Regular Members subsequently joining the Network as well as Associate Partners of the Network.

§ 4

Legal character and objective of the Network

1. The Network is a body without legal personality. It is a voluntary group of cooperating local and regional authorities and other partners.
2. The objective of the Network and the subject of this Agreement is to pursue partnership cooperation in the field of sustainable and responsible development of the regions of the Three Seas Initiative countries, and in particular: development, facilitation and promotion of cross-border and international cooperation with the aim of strengthening the economic and social cohesion of the area of the Network's activities in the Three Seas Initiative countries.
3. The representatives of the Network are subject to the rules of mandate, according to the laws of the state they come from.

§ 5

Tasks to be implemented by the Network

1. The objective set out in § 4(2) shall be implemented through:
 - 1) reducing the infrastructure gap in Central and Eastern Europe in relation to Western Europe;
 - 2) developing inter-regional cooperation as a local and regional government component of the Three Seas Initiative;
 - 3) providing a development impulse to local and regional governments through cooperation and building sustainable links in the fields of infrastructure, transport, digitalisation and innovation,
 - 4) creating tools for more effective use of European funds, national resources and the Three Seas Initiative Investment Fund;
 - 5) participating in the dynamic process of economic recovery and extension of infrastructure connecting the Three Seas Initiative regions, such as Via Carpatia, Rail Baltica, Via Baltica, Rail-2-Sea, and new projects including Rail Carpatia;
 - 6) supporting entrepreneurship, in particular by fostering the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and international trade;

- 7) promoting development and mutual exchange in the fields of culture, the arts, tourism and others.
2. The tasks set out in Par. 1 shall be implemented by means of territorial cooperation projects co-financed by the European Union through the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus or the Cohesion Fund, and the Just Transition Fund, as well as projects without the EU financial contribution. The projects shall be implemented under separate specific agreements.
3. With the aim of implementing the tasks set out in Par. 1, thematic sections may be established within the Network. Due to the overarching economic development objective, the first of such sections to be created shall be the Economic Section.
4. The Network shall operate based on the principle that all tasks fall within the competence of each Member under its national law.
5. The objective of the Network shall be changed exclusively by the Regular Members of the Network, subject to written consent of at least two-thirds of all Regular Members.

§ 6

Duration of the Network and conditions for its dissolution

1. The Network is established for an indefinite period.
2. The Network may be dissolved by giving a 6-month notice at the end of a month, subject to written consent of at least two-thirds of its Regular Members.

§ 7

Dispute resolution

Should any dispute arise between the Network members, these members undertake to resolve it by way of amicable agreement.

§ 8

Adoption and procedure for amending the Agreement and the Network Charter

1. The Agreement is adopted unanimously by the Founding Members of the Network.
2. Based on the Agreement, the Founding Members of the Network shall unanimously adopt its Charter.
3. Adoption of any amendments and supplements either to the Agreement or the Charter shall be regulated by the procedure stipulated in the Charter of the Network.

4. All subsequently admitted Regular Members of the Network, as well as Associated Partners shall accept the provisions of the Agreement and Charter upon joining the Network.

§ 9

Final provisions

1. The Agreement was drawn up in Lublin, on 2023, in 15 counterparts, each in the Polish, Lithuanian, Romanian, Slovak, Hungarian and English language. In the event of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the documents drawn up in several languages, the English version shall be considered prevalent.
2. This Agreement shall enter into force on the day of its signing, but not earlier than upon approval by the competent authorities of the Network's members.